

SPIRE u3a



NEWS SHEET TWELVE



June Evening
2021 - as
seen from
Burford Road

Chairman's Report

AS I write my report, the good weather we have been enjoying seems to have been replaced by cloudy skies and it feels like autumn is just round the corner.

Over the past few months we have had a number of zoom talks and get togethers at Tipple Time, which have been so helpful to keep us united during these difficult times.

Your committee have likewise been meeting via zoom and have been very active on your behalf. I would now like to share with you some of the decisions we have made concerning our meetings at the Memorial Hall.

Due to the rise in Covid 19 infections, it was the unanimous decision of the committee to cancel all meetings at the hall until further notice. But we will continue to hold zoom talks and Tiddle Time get togethers. We also need to have our AGM by October to conform with U3A rules. A notice of the AGM will be sent to all members in the near future.

The committee is also looking to recruit new members. Members of the present committee have been in post for a number of years and we are of the opinion that new blood is needed to bring forward new ideas and to take over several positions which are at present vacant. It is vital that we have a full committee to carry out all of the duties for the benefit of our members. Please contact me if you would like to be involved.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all committee members for their hard work and support over this past year, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to the Hall as soon as circumstances allow.

John Holt

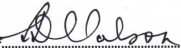
AGM

THE Annual General Meeting of Spire u3a will be held on zoom on **Monday October 11** at 10am. Please make every effort to be there. Meeting papers will be distributed soon. Important adjustments will need to be made because of the different way that we are operating at the moment but it won't necessarily mean that we each pay any more overall in the course of the year.

The accounts have already been signed off and can be seen below with the Treasurer's Report.

SPIRE U3A		
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021		
RECEIPTS	2020	2021
General	£25.00	£0.00
Membership Net	£1,807.50	£1,567.50
Gift Aid Tax Refund	TBA	£202.50
Monthly Meetings	£1,059.45	£0.00
Events and Socials	£0.00	£200.00
Group Activities	£2,416.50	£319.40
Donations	£32.50	£25.00
Business Account Interest	£0.99	£0.77
TOTAL INCOME	£5,341.94	£2,315.17
PAYMENTS		
General	£421.31	£689.12
Capitation Fee £3.50/£3.50	£675.50	£640.50
U3A Magazine, Postage, etc.	£501.42	£519.01
Monthly Meetings	£1,164.89	£127.00
Events and Socials	£0.00	£200.00
Group Activities	£2,200.00	£519.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£4,963.12	£2,694.63
YEAR END SURPLUS/LOSS	£378.82	-£379.46
BALANCES AT 31st MARCH		
Lloyds TSB Business Account	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Lloyds TSB Treasurer's Account	£1,925.91	£1,507.70
Petty Cash	£14.95	£53.70
TOTAL ASSETS	£4,940.86	£4,561.40

Date 22/6/2021

Signed Treasurer 

I have carried out an independent examination of the Spire U3A accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 and I concur that they are fully in accordance with the books and records thereof.

Date 22/06/2021

Signed Independent Examiner 

SPIRE U3A TREASURER'S REPORT y/e 31st MARCH 2021

As recorded in my report for the previous year, the "lockdown" - and all of its consequences - began on March 23rd 2020. And we now know that these consequences, i.e. severe curtailment of our activities, lasted throughout our accounting year - up to and beyond March 31st 2021 in fact. So the accounts for the 12 months to March 31st 2021 clearly reflect this situation. For example, group activity receipts of £319.40 comprised S&T £30.40 plus Theatre Group £289. Group activity expenditure of £510 was made up of Painting Group (Hall hire from previous account) and Theatre Group refunds £289 - due to Playhouse cancellation of "The Kite Runner". The general expenses sum of £689.12 includes £143.88 Zoom subscription, the balance made up largely of additional postage costs.

Well before the pandemic arrived though, it was noted that numbers attending our monthly meetings was falling - from roughly 80/90 per month to 60/70 per month. This trend coincided with a steady increase in speaker's fees. So instead of experiencing a modest surplus (i.e. generated by the £1.00 entry fee) the monthly meetings started to consume the income surpluses brought forward from earlier years. To rectify this situation the committee decided to raise the meeting charge to £1.50. At a later date it was proposed to abolish the meeting entry fee altogether and offer completely "free" monthly meetings, (to include refreshments) to be paid for by a modest increase in the annual subscription. We decided, however, to commence the "free" year from April 2020 but not to increase the subscriptions until April 2021. This would have required listing this proposal on the AGM agenda, originally scheduled for April 2020. The pandemic caused not only the 2020 AGM to be delayed but also the changes outlined above to be put on hold. It is to be hoped that the forthcoming 2021 AGM will enable these proposals to be implemented in full.

- Stuart Robson, Treasurer.

I feel sorry for parents nowadays. You have to be able to explain the birds & the bees, the bees & the bees, the birds & the birds, the birds that used to be bees, the bees that used to be birds, the birds that look like bees, plus bees that look like birds but still got a stinger!

Editorial

SINCE *News Sheet 11*, August has come and gone. We have seen glimpses of the sun between the clouds, tourists have returned to our city and many of us have been able to visit family or have them stay with us for the first time in months.

September, the beginning of the new academic year, applies to u3a as much as to any learning institution. Now is the time when we refresh our groups, invite new members to share our interest, plan activities for the rest of the term or take up something new.

As we all know u3a is a self-help organisation, that is part of its appeal. Our movement is a unique and exciting organisation which provides, through its branches, life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities. Retired and semi-retired people come together and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward: the sheer joy of discovery!

Throughout this news sheet you will find requests for help, opportunities to join in, contribute ideas and share the load of running Spire u3a. We need everyone to play

a part, however small, to make it work for us. Many, many thanks to Rita Johnston for coming forward to manage the sale of u3a Diaries 2022.

We are all sad that our monthly meetings will not be resuming in the hall for the time being but most Interest Groups are flourishing and Zoom provides an easy-peasy way for us all to get together.....having said that I shall be managing some of the zoom sessions away from home this month. So fingers-crossed and apologies in advance if things go wrong at my end.

Maureen E Frost

BE RECOGNISED AS A U3A MEMBER

Carry a u3a Diary - Special 40th anniversary edition for 2022



Size: 150mm x 85mm

Rita Johnston is kindly collating orders.
Email or Telephone to place your order and
arrange payment

01722 **339547**

rita.j234@btinternet.com

You will need to collect your Diary from The Close once it arrives but we will offer delivery in SP1 or Harnham to anyone who is housebound or has mobility problems.

£3 + 40p p&p

Please order your diary asap **and pay for it** by Thursday September 30.

u3a's are self-help organisations. With the exception of external speakers, all our activities are carried out by members and we are totally dependent on our members being willing to volunteer.

"All Human Knowledge is precious whether or not it serves the slightest human use." - A.E. Housman

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE



The Reading Agency presents

National Reading Group Day

Tuesday 14 September 2021
6.30pm
Facebook: @readingagency

Join in the conversation

READING GROUPS FOR EVERYONE

National Reading Group Day is coming up on **Tuesday 14 September 2021**. Everyone's invited to join the National Reading Group Day conversation; whether you're a reading group member or not, this will be open to all on **Facebook (@readingagency)** at **6.30pm** on 14 September.

We recently held a vote to choose our book, and we're thrilled that the winner is *The Foundling* by Stacey Halls! So get reading!

Buy this book from [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) or [hive.co.uk](https://www.hive.co.uk) to support The Reading Agency and local bookshops at no additional cost to you.

Learning Events from u3a

Maths-Rocks-Rival Queens-Yoga-EgyptianPottery & more

Register here.....

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Coffee and Chat, organised by Harnham Community Network, of which Spire u3a is a member.

Parish Hall Field, Lower St

Every Saturday

10 am - 12 noon

Membership Subscriptions – A few are still overdue. If you will not be renewing please let Mary Robson (Membership Secretary) know: “We don’t want to see you go but we will no longer keep in touch if we do not receive payment and you may not participate in any Interest Groups, sorry.”

Group Activities: Most Groups are holding some form of meetings, Zoom, email or other social media.

For advice on how to join a Zoom meeting click

<https://www.dorchesteru3a.org.uk/how-to-zoom.html>

If you are interested in establishing a new group, please contact Mary Robson, Acting Group Liaison.

Where you have a specific skill or interest

Consider whether members might be interested in having you lead a new group to share your interest. We are always willing to check for interest with the membership. Please discuss your ideas with Mary.

LIPREADING

Places are available in Salisbury City Centre - starting in September.

No termly fees - just make a donation whenever you attend.

Joining a lipreading class is a significant step towards regaining confidence and identity after hearing loss. Even if you don’t need a hearing aid yet, you are still welcome to join in.

Email Caroline, the tutor, for more information or text her - please do not telephone as she will not hear you!

lipreadingtutor@gmail.com

and TEXT ONLY to 07877 468450

SILVER SALISBURY in SEPTEMBER

A programme of events in and around the city

- from 18th September to 10th October
- A chance for older people to try out new things
- Most events are FREE but need to be booked in advance
- Download brochure here

<https://www.silversalisbury.co.uk>

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it -Aristotle

THE INTEREST GROUPS

FEEL GOOD FILMS, MUSICALS & OPERA

(These groups continued throughout using telephone calls and email.)

From September

Feel Good Films on 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.30am at Pat's home

Musicals/Opera on 4th Wednesday of the month 10.30am at Pat's home

Maximum number, in total, for each session is 8.

For information on joining either group please call 01722 333401.

We will open a waiting list, if necessary, and keep in touch.

LUNCH GROUP

We meet monthly on different days of the week, either around Salisbury in pubs or restaurants or take the bus using our passes.

Lately we have been to Bournemouth and Marlborough.

The lunch group has room for more.

Hoping that we will be able to soon meet with over 6 people!

Contact Judy Jeffrey on

01425 652124 or

judyfiveoaks@outlook.com



GARDEN GANG

For garden visits, sharing knowledge and maybe some practical work. No definite plans to meet before springtime but please register your interest now with the Groups Co-ordinator - mfrobson@btinternet.com

OBC

It is hoped that the Occasional Book Club will resume activities in the Autumn.

Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator to register your interest -

mfrobson@btinternet.com

There are obviously two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live - James Truslow Adams (historian, freelance author, Pulitzer prize winner)

PUZZLERS

Code words, Crosswords Quick & Crosswords Cryptic, Sudoku etc. We can share insights and help one another solve those obstinate clues.

Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator to register your interest - mfrobson@btinternet.com

POETRY READING

The poetry group met in a garden - under the trees - last time and had a very successful meeting. We decided to try and find poems about Gardens to read at the next meeting!

Contact Beryl for details - beryl.paton@outlook.com

SCI-TECH

From Peter Read

- *There are more stars in the universe and grains of sand on any beach,*
- *more stars than seconds have passed since the Earth formed,*
- *more stars than words and sounds ever uttered by all the human beings*

see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99RRB42VLuM>

This was from an article in a book by a chap called Dr Neil deGrasse Tyson where he is an astrophysicist at the American Museum of Natural History, and a director of its world-famous *Hayden Planetarium* New York City.

Contact Peter for information on Sci-Tech activities - 01722 501218

WALKING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Contact Colin Seago for date, time, distance and which bus stop to meet at cojo@freeuk.com



GEOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS

Following our August break, we are due to re-convene on Tuesday 21st September, starting at 10.00.

Usual venue - No.20 St. Clair Road - everyone welcome - can also accommodate new members. This will be a "live" session during which I will re-run the Iron/Steel & Brendon Hills Iron Mines presentation, with a selection of iron ore samples to view. And as September is traditionally the start of the academic year, we will endeavour list topics of interest and outdoor activities for the year ahead.

Stuart Robson

RECORDER PLAYING for FUN & IMPROVEMENT!

Our first session following the August break falls on Wednesday September 15th, from 14.00. We will attempt a "hybrid" session i.e. operating the usual Zoom meeting (where I "broadcast" the tunes to play along to) and at the same time running a face-to-face group of up to say 4 of us, here at No. 20. New members welcome to join in the fun - either via Zoom or "live" at St. Clair Road.

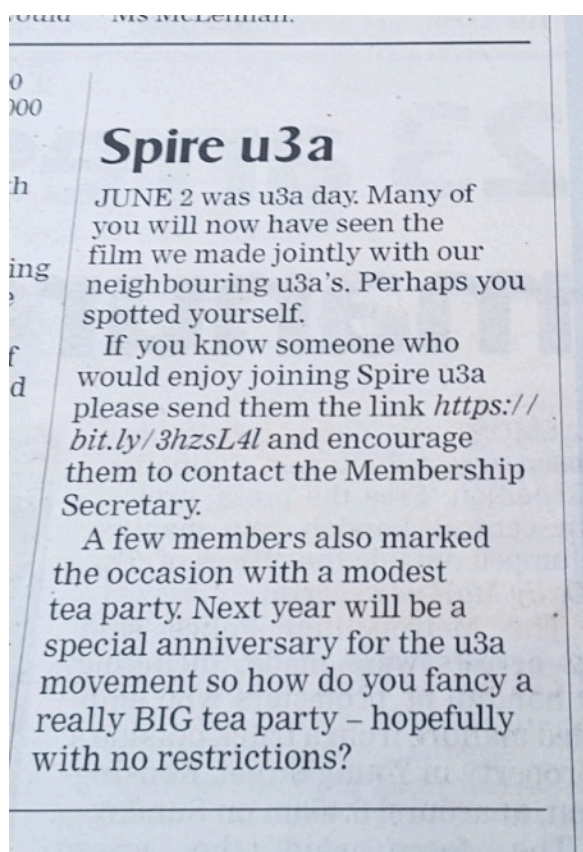
Stuart Robson

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81822250908?pwd=YTRWVGp3cHBXTHNIWS9DL3V4UkR2dz09>

Meeting ID: 818 2225 0908

Passcode: 473269

SPIRE u3a hits the news.....

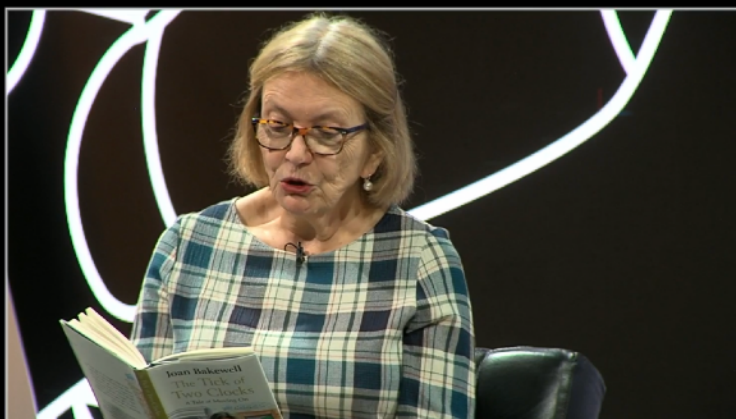


ZOOM LINKS

MONTHLY MEETING

The Tick of Two Clocks - a Tale of Moving On

Joan Bakewell in conversation with Richard Holloway at the Edinburgh Book Festival



>> The two clocks refer to the two timescales. I lived in my big Victorian house for 53 years and it came time to change. So when I make that into an account for my book, I thought I would give the house its own voice. So this chapter is written by the house.

Monday September 13 from 10am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89280275252?pwd=ejNzd2dFOXl0WnZOSXVicU5tK3Rxdz09>

Meeting ID: 892 8027 5252

Passcode: 992811

TIPPLE TIME

Tipple Time - the sociable way to end the week - open to all.

Friday September 17 at 6pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86725675768?pwd=RjMxRGhvQ0pzYUd4NjhHT1hYNmV6UT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2567 5768

Passcode: 430899

Our topic for conversation this time will be *Vehicles* - describing your favourite car, your Dad's first car, the most rickety bus ever, that time you put your foot down and it went through the floorand, apart from Harry Potter, who had a Ford Anglia?



